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2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

National report submitted by New Zealand

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to action 20 of the action plan in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The plan stipulates that States parties submit regular reports on their implementation of the action plan, and of article VI, paragraph 4 (c), of the 1995 decision entitled "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament", as well as the practical steps agreed in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, recalling also the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 (action 20). At the 2010 Review Conference, States parties recognized that nuclear disarmament and achieving the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons would require openness and cooperation. States parties affirmed the importance of enhanced confidence through increased transparency and effective verification.

2. In the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, a number of actions on transparency were agreed. Under action 2, all States parties committed to apply the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency regarding the implementation of their Treaty obligations. Under action 5, the nuclear-weapon States committed to accelerate concrete progress on steps leading to nuclear disarmament and were called upon to promptly engage with a view, inter alia, to "further enhance transparency and increase mutual confidence" and to report back on undertakings set out in that action step. Under action 19, all States agreed on the importance of supporting cooperation among Governments, the United Nations and other international, regional and civil society organizations with the aim of building confidence, transparency and efficient verification capabilities relating to nuclear disarmament. As a confidence-building measure under action 21, all the nuclear-weapon States were encouraged to agree on a standard reporting form and appropriate reporting intervals for the purpose of voluntarily providing standard information without prejudice to national security.

3. New Zealand is a strong supporter of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its three pillars. We are dedicated to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, and continue to encourage national, regional and global efforts to realize this goal.

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4. New Zealand takes very seriously the obligations under article VI and the commitments agreed at subsequent Review Conferences, particularly the "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament" adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, the 13 practical steps agreed at the 2000 Review Conference and the nuclear disarmament action plan agreed at the 2010 Review Conference. These represent an integral part of the Treaty regime. The 2010 action plan provides a blueprint for action in the short term. New Zealand continues to take every opportunity to urge all States parties to meet their obligations fully.

5. New Zealand considers that transparency is a principle to which all States should adhere, nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States alike, because it helps reinforce compliance with Treaty obligations. The more that is known about how States implement their Treaty commitments, the greater the level of international trust in the regime. In this spirit, New Zealand has consistently submitted transparency reports since the 2000 Review Conference and, in the light of action 20, will continue to do so.

6. New Zealand is an active member of the New Agenda Coalition[1] to promote nuclear disarmament. The Coalition sponsors an annual General Assembly resolution titled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments". In its resolution 69/37, the Assembly highlighted the central role of the Treaty and its binding nature at all times and in all circumstances. It also sought to place emphasis on the relevant action points in the 2010 action plan and called upon States to abide fully by their commitments. Looking forward, resolution 69/37 called on the 2015 Review Conference to give due prominence to the humanitarian imperatives in its decisions and follow-on actions, to agree on an additional set of measures to build on commitments made and actions agreed and urged States parties to the Treaty to explore during the Review Conference options for the elaboration of the effective measures envisaged in and required by article VI of the Treaty.

7. In addition to the seven papers[2] submitted by the New Agenda Coalition to the three Preparatory Committee meetings in the current review cycle, New Zealand is pleased to be associated with the two working papers submitted by the Coalition to the 2015 Review Conference itself: a working paper seeking progress on the implementation of Article VI (NPT/CONF.2015/WP.9) and a working paper proposing a range of recommendations on nuclear disarmament issues (NPT/CONF.2015/WP.8). As a member of the New Agenda Coalition and as its current coordinator, New Zealand looks forward to building further on these at the 2015 Review Conference.

8. New Zealand is pleased to work with Chile, Malaysia, Nigeria, Sweden and Switzerland (the members of the De-Alerting Group) in promoting action to lower the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems. In adopting the Group's most recent resolution in 2014 (resolution 69/42), the General Assembly called for further

[1] Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and South Africa.

[2] NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.18 (on effective measures); NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.19 (on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons); NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.25, NPT/CONF.2015/PC.II/WP.27 and NPT/CONF.2015/PC.I/WP.29 (on nuclear disarmament); NPT/CONF.2015/PC.II/WP.26 (on transparency); and NPT/CONF.2015/PC.I/WP.30 (on verification).

practical steps to be taken to decrease the operational readiness of nuclear weapon systems with a view to ensuring that all nuclear weapons are removed from high alert status, and looked forward to this issue being addressed further at the 2015 Review Conference. In addition to the paper presented at the 2014 session of the Preparatory Committee (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.24), the De-Alerting Group will present a paper highlighting the importance of de-alerting and proposing recommendations on this issue for consideration by the 2015 Review Conference. New Zealand remains committed to progress in this area as part of a holistic approach to nuclear disarmament.

9. The 2010 Review Conference expressed its deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. New Zealand has been a strong supporter of efforts undertaken since then to increase awareness of this central element of the nuclear disarmament debate. New Zealand has attended and actively participated in the three international conferences held in Austria, Mexico and Norway so as to better understand the nature and gravity of the humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, intentional or accidental. New Zealand has supported statements on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons at all three sessions of the 2015 Preparatory Committee and also coordinated and delivered a joint statement on behalf of 155 States at a meeting of the First Committee during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly in 2014. The statement concluded that the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons are never used again is through their total elimination, including through the full implementation of the Treaty.

10. New Zealand remains a strong proponent of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. New Zealand associated itself with the Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted in New York on 26 September 2014. New Zealand was pleased that the 2010 Review Conference reaffirmed the essential role of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty within the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and the vital importance of the entry into force of that Treaty. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty makes an important contribution towards preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, constraining the qualitative enhancement of existing nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of such weapons. New Zealand is pleased to be a core sponsor, with Australia and Mexico, of a recurring General Assembly resolution on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, in which the Assembly has recognized that Treaty as a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.[3]

11. New Zealand strongly supports the objective and purpose of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and, pending its entry into force, urges all States to refrain from testing nuclear devices. New Zealand publicly condemned the nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 9 October 2006, 25 May 2009 and 12 February 2013, which were detected by the Treaty's verification system. They violated relevant Security Council resolutions.

12. New Zealand is deeply disappointed that sustained attempts to determine a programme of work in the Conference on Disarmament have not been successful. New Zealand, which will take up its one-month presidency of the Conference on

[3] See, for example, resolution 69/81.

Disarmament in August 2015 and is playing a constructive role as part of the P6 (i.e., as one of the six presidents of the annual session), supports all efforts to overcome the current impasse so that substantive work in the Conference can commence without further delay. It is of concern to New Zealand that the Conference is failing to fulfil its role in the progression of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. New Zealand supports the early negotiation of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty on fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, reflecting both nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives.

13. New Zealand is a strong advocate of the role of nuclear-weapon-free zones in contributing to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. As a full party to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty of 1985 (the Treaty of Rarotonga), New Zealand works to promote more engagement between States that belong to nuclear-weapon-free zones. We will participate actively in the Third Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia on 24 April 2015 and will serve in the bureau of that Conference.

14. In 2014, Brazil and New Zealand introduced a draft resolution entitled "Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas", which was adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 69/35). This resolution recognized the contribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones to the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world and welcomed the fact that all nuclear-weapon-free zones in the southern hemisphere are now in force. It also called upon the nuclear-weapon States to withdraw any reservations or interpretive declarations contrary to the object and purpose of treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones.

15 New Zealand welcomed the reaffirmation at the 2010 Review Conference of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review Conference and agreement to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. It is regrettable that the conference has still not been held, and we continue to call on the convenors, the facilitator and the States of the region to exert every effort to convene the conference as soon as possible.

16. New Zealand is an active member of the Vienna Group of Ten,[4] which produces working papers for the Review Conference on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, nuclear safety, security and safeguards, export controls and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We are pleased to support the composite paper and recommendations put forward by the Vienna Group of Ten for consideration by the Review Conference in 2015.

17. New Zealand fully complies with its article II commitments. The country's obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are legislated in the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament and Arms Control Act of 1987. The country's concerns about compliance by other non-nuclear-weapon States parties have been expressed in various forums, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

18. The country's comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA came into force on 29 February 1972, with our additional protocol concluded on 24 September

[4] Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden.

1998. In February 2014 we were pleased to sign the modified small quantities protocol to our safeguards agreement. With no nuclear weapons, no nuclear energy generation, no nuclear reactors and no production of uranium or other relevant material, New Zealand conducts only very minor activities subject to safeguards. IAEA continues to assess New Zealand as being in full compliance with all its safeguards commitments.

19. New Zealand strongly supports a system of strengthened IAEA safeguards as an essential component of the global non-proliferation regime. Through safeguards, IAEA verifies assurances that States are meeting their obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and provides the mechanism by which States demonstrate their compliance. Universal application of the integrated safeguards system, including the additional protocol, would promote collective security, and New Zealand calls upon all States that have not yet done so to conclude such agreements at the earliest possible date. New Zealand continues to seek opportunities to strengthen the application of nuclear safeguards and, to this end, was pleased to join the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network in April 2014. New Zealand also supports efforts by IAEA to develop the State-level concept as a means of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the safeguards system.

20. New Zealand applies export controls to materials and dual-use goods that could be used in a nuclear weapons programme. The Government maintains cooperation and information exchanges among relevant Government agencies involved in export controls and continues both domestic and international outreach in this area. The current review of the Customs Act and proposed introduction of brokering controls will further strengthen the existing regime. We actively work to strengthen and coordinate international measures with other members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and with the Zangger Committee, which New Zealand joined in November 2013.

21. New Zealand reaffirms the inalienable right of States parties to peaceful nuclear technology, in conformity with articles I, II and III of the Treaty, and is pleased to continue supporting the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative. It remains our view that safeguards, safety, security and waste management should be integral parts of the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. New Zealand remains actively engaged in international efforts to strengthen nuclear safety and security, including at the Nuclear Security Summit and through our funding of the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund. New Zealand supports a strengthened role for IAEA in nuclear security and looks forward to participating in the Nuclear Security Conference in December 2016. New Zealand is also scheduled to host a Proliferation Security Initiative exercise in November 2015 aimed at strengthening national, regional and international efforts to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials.

22. In IAEA and other relevant forums, New Zealand continues to actively promote the safe transport of radioactive material. New Zealand is keen to ensure that the highest possible safety standards are adopted and applied by those transporting radioactive material, that coastal and other interested States receive notification in advance of shipments and that adequate liability arrangements are in place. In September 2013, New Zealand was pleased to join a number of coastal and shipping states at IAEA in agreeing on voluntary best practice guidelines on communication to apply to certain shipments of radioactive material. New Zealand

also looks forward to participating in a table-top exercise to test the guidelines in June 2015.

23. New Zealand remains committed to efforts to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education. Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (www.pnnd.org) ensures New Zealand parliamentarians are kept abreast of international nuclear disarmament issues and initiatives through updates, events at the Inter-Parliamentary Union Assemblies and meetings in parliament buildings. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs gives regular briefings to non-governmental organizations and includes participants from non-governmental organizations in Review Conference delegations.

24. The Government has two funds to support a wide range of disarmament and peace education activities. The Disarmament Education UN Implementation Fund helps fund citizen groups to implement the recommendations from the United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education of 2002. The Peace and Disarmament Education Trust regularly funds M.A. and Ph.D. scholarships for research on disarmament issues. Other projects include the creation of Peace Cities; exhibitions; the training of interns; peace libraries; the production of educational material for schools, journalists and university students; and visits by leading disarmament experts such as the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and the former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General.

25. In addition, a range of civil-society initiatives promote education on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues. Events to commemorate the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are held in all schools and some cities during Peace Week in August. The Peace Foundation offers "Responding to Armed Conflict" presentations to schools covering topics such as the Treaty, and disarmament and development. New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone Day on 8 June highlights the country's role in working towards a nuclear free world. The book *Peace, Power and Politics* offers a comprehensive history of how New Zealand became nuclear free. The Disarmament and Security Centre's website (www.disarmsecure.org) hosts educational material for teachers and students about nuclear disarmament.

26. "UN Youth NZ" fosters global citizenship with a range of opportunities, including study tours to the International Court of Justice and international Model United Nations conferences. It organizes 17 Model United Nations Assemblies around New Zealand and a four-day national United Nations Model Assembly that often attracts some 250 delegates. Young people are encouraged to critically evaluate issues such as the use of nuclear technology and weaponry. The United Nations Association also organizes public meetings promoting nuclear disarmament.

27. Peace Movement Aotearoa is a national networking peace organization. It hosts a comprehensive website (www.converge.org.nz/pma/) listing United Nations and other documents on conventional and nuclear disarmament. It promotes activities to mark Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Day, the United Nations International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, the United Nations International Day of Peace, the Global Day of Action on Military Spending, Armistice Day and the World War One Centenary and the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

28. UNFOLD ZERO (www.unfoldzero.org) uses conference calls, e-mails and social media to educate non-governmental organizations in New Zealand on United Nations disarmament initiatives. Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons informs non-governmental organizations of nuclear abolition initiatives around the world via Facebook, its website (www.abolition2000.org) and newsletters.